



BOROUGH OF POOLE.

REPORTS

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE

Poole Urban Sanitary Authority

AND TO

The Poole Port Sanitary Authority

FOR THE

Year ending December 31st, 1904.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE
URBAN AND PORT SANITARY AUTHORITIES.

POOLE:

W. S. HALLETT, GENERAL PRINTER, MARKET PLACE.

To the Poole Urban Sanitary Authority.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Report of the Health of the Poole Urban Sanitary Authority, comprising the parishes of St. James, Parkstone, Longfleet and Hamworthy for the year ending December 31st, 1904.

The area of the Borough is 5,333 acres (not including 2,200 acres of tidal water and foreshore), distributed amongst the different parishes as follows :

			ACRES.
Parish of St. James	..	..	153
„ Longfleet	..	..	1265
„ Parkstone	..	..	2838
„ Hamworthy	..	..	1077

Total	..	..	5333

The number of houses and the population of the Borough at the census of 1901 was as follows :—

		NO. OF HOUSES.	POPULA- TION.
Parish of St. James	}	1031	7670
„ Longfleet		915	4159
„ Parkstone		1338	6550
„ Hamworthy		242	1084
		-----	-----
Total ..		4126	19463
		-----	-----

Average number of persons per house 4·77.

Assessable value.—Of the different Parishes :—

St. James	..	..	..	£25350
Longfleet	..	..	..	16571
Parkstone	..	..	..	46654
Hamworthy	..	..	..	4841

Total	..	..	..	£93416

or an increase of £4500 over that of 1903.

Population.—Assuming that the rate of increase continues, as it did in the last 10 years, I estimate the population to be 21,000 to the middle of the year.

Births.—The number of Births registered during the year was 569, 308 males and 261 females. The Birth-rate was 27·09, a slight increase as compared with 1903. Natural increase in population 235.

Deaths.—The number of Deaths registered during the year was 364, 186 males and 178 females. The Death-rate was 17·03 per 1000. There was an increase of 34 as compared with 1903, due to deaths in persons over 65 years of age. Average age at Death 40 years, as compared with 37 years in 1903.

The Infantile Death-rate was 109 per 1000 Births registered, as compared with 135·3 per 1000 in 1903. There has been a great decrease in deaths of children under 1 year of age.

The Zymotic Death-rate is calculated upon the seven principal Zymotic Diseases, viz :—Small Pox, Scarlet Fever, Measles, Diphtheria and Membranous Croup, Whooping Cough, Fever (Typhus, Enteric, and other continued), and Diarrhœa. During 1904 five deaths were attributed to Scarlet Fever, seven to Diphtheria and Membranous Croup, three to Whooping Cough, four to Enteric (Typhoid) Fever, and 10 to Diarrhœa.

The Zymotic Death-rate was therefore 1·38 per 1000 inhabitants. In 1903 it was 0·78, but owing to the excessive rainfall and cool summer there were no deaths from Diarrhœa in that year.

Phthisis caused 29 Deaths, giving a Death-rate of 1·38 per 1000 inhabitants.

The following table shews the Birth-rates, Death-rates and Zymotic Death-rates for England and Wales during 1904, and the corresponding rates for Poole.

	Annual Rates per 1000 living.			Infant Mortality Annual Death Rate of Infants under one year per 1000 deaths.
	Births.	Deaths from all causes.	Deaths from seven chief Epidemic Diseases.	
England and Wales ..	27·9	16·2	1·94	146
Rural England and Wales	26·8	15·3	1·28	125
76 Great Towns ..	29·1	17·2	2·49	160
142 Smaller Towns ..	27·5	15·6	2·02	154
Poole ..	27·09	17·03	1·38	109

Monthly returns of Births and Deaths were as follows:—

	<i>Births.</i>			<i>Deaths.</i>		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
January	26	13	39	19	18	37
February	26	24	49	15	19	34
March	28	19	47	12	18	30
April	28	21	49	14	9	23
May	21	30	51	19	13	32
June	34	23	57	13	13	26
July	31	19	50	12	11	23
August	25	23	48	16	11	27
September	28	29	58	17	19	36
October	17	26	43	14	13	27
November	22	20	42	16	14	30
December	23	14	37	19	20	39
	<hr/> 308	<hr/> 261	<hr/> 569	<hr/> 186	<hr/> 178	<hr/> 364

The various Parishes and Hospitals were credited with the following Deaths.

Poole	..	..	..	..	145
Poole Harbour	..	..	..	..	2
Parkstone	..	..	..	..	107
Longfleet	..	..	..	..	48
Hamworthy	..	..	..	..	10
Union Workhouse	..	..	..	..	33
Cornelia Hospital	..	..	..	..	17
Fever Hospital	..	..	..	..	2

The ages at which Deaths occurred were:—

Under 1 year	..	..	..	62
Between 1 and 5 years	..	..	..	36
„ 5 and 15	..	..	..	7
„ 15 and 25	..	..	..	16
„ 25 and 65	..	..	..	117
Over 65 years	..	..	..	126

The causes of the Deaths registered are tabulated in Table IV.

Infectious Diseases Notification Act.—The diseases that must be notified as soon as possible to the Sanitary Authority under this Act are Small-Pox, Cholera, Diphtheria or Membranous Croup, Erysipelas, Scarlet Fever, Typhus Fever, Enteric, Relapsing and continued Fevers, Puerperal Fever and Plague.

The total number of Notifications received during 1904 was 307. Comprising 32 of Diphtheria, 2 of Membranous Croup, 27 of Erysipelas, 224 of Scarlet Fever, 21 of Enteric Fever, and 1 of Puerperal Fever.

The following table shows the distribution of Notifications occurring in 1904 in each district.

Locality.	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Membranous Croup	Erysipelas	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Fever
Poole	202	11	1	18	15	..
Parkstone ..	10	20	1	2	5	..
Longfleet ..	4	1	..	4	..	..
Hamworthy ..	8	..	..	3	1	1
Total ..	224	32	2	27	21	1

Scarlet Fever.—The number of cases of scarlet fever reported during the year was 224, of which five cases were fatal. The ages of the fatal cases were three between one and five years, one between five and fifteen years, and one over 25 years. The epidemic, with the exception of these fatal cases, which had other complications, was not of a severe type. Some of the Schools were closed by order of your Council, owing to so many children being away.

Diphtheria.—Thirty-two cases were reported, 11 in Poole, one in Longfleet, and 20 in Parkstone : of these seven were fatal. All these cases were enquired into, but no special cause could be found. Several of the cases were in children who were too young to attend school. Many of the cases at Parkstone occurred amongst children attending the British Schools. The managers, owing to want of funds, have been unable, although advised, to connect the schools with the drains. One case in the Dorset Home was proved, after bacteriological examination, not to be Diphtheria. Nearly all the cases have been treated with injections of Diphtheritic Serum, and to the use of this, in my opinion, is due the small number of fatal cases. Your Council allows me to keep some tubes, so that the Serum may be procured and injected by the patient's medical adviser at once, as the serum has been proved most efficacious if injected immediately the case is diagnosed.

Membranous Croup.—Two cases were reported, both of which proved fatal.

Erysipelas.—Twenty-seven cases were reported, of which three were fatal. Twenty of these occurred between the ages of 25 and 65.

Puerperal Fever.—One case was notified at Hamworthy, which proved fatal. Precautions against its spread were taken by my requesting those in attendance to use disfectants freely, and not to attend any maternity cases for over 14 days.

Enteric Fever.—Twenty-one cases were notified, of which four were fatal. Of these 15 occurred in Poole, five in Parkstone and one in Hamworthy. Oysters dredged near Brownsea Castle had been partaken of by several of the persons attacked, about three weeks before. A sample of these oysters were sent to London for Bactereological Analysis, and were found to be free from typhoid bacilli or any sewage contamination. The Analysts' report says:—“The oysters forwarded by you for examination on November 17th have been subjected to various tests, cultures and sub-cultures having been made and examined, with the result that the prevailing organism is found to be a variety of *Bacillus Mesentericus*, neither indicative of sewage contamination nor dangerous in itself. No organisms which could be identified with *Bacillus Typhosus*, *Bacillus Coli* or *Bacillus Enteritidis* have been found. The result of the whole series is to lead to the conclusion that these particular oysters, at any rate, had not suffered from sewage contamination.” Dr Klein has shown by experiments how rapidly oysters will clean themselves of Typhoid Bacilli if kept in a sufficient quantity of pure sea water. In my opinion, the oysters when caught are free from all typhoid germs, and that if any pollution takes place it is caused by their being kept in baths or tubs of salt water, occasionally changed, in the small back-yards of the fishermen, often not covered over, and near to the water closet and house drains. Owing to the poor demand the oysters are now kept sometimes a long time in this state after leaving the sea, and are consequently half-dead when eaten, and much more liable to have been contaminated with deliterious matter.

The cases of enteric fever which could not be nursed at home were admitted into the Cornelia Hospital. Our thanks are most heartily given to the Committee of the Hospital for allowing their admission, and to the Matron and Nurses for their kind care and excellent nursing.

Fever Hospital—The resources of the hospital have been taxed to their utmost. During the year 65 cases have been admitted, of which eight were Diphtheria, and 57 Scarlet Fever. The average duration of each patient's stay was six weeks. Only two fatal cases occurred, one of Diphtheria and one from Scarlet Fever. The nursing and housekeeping have been most efficiently carried out by Nurse Budden and her husband: extra nursing assistance had to be obtained. A Committee of your Council met to hear a report from me on several improvements required at the hospital, and owing to the hospital being empty, the work is now being proceeded with. Your Council takes these infectious cases from their homes for the good of the community at large, and no expense ought to be spared to restore them back again. I beg to acknowledge Xmas gifts for the children from Mrs. van Raalte, of Brownsea Castle, and gifts of books and toys from many ladies and gentlemen. The public have

now come to realize the great boon the isolation hospital is. This has been shewn during the past year by the willingness parents have shewn to have their children removed. The improvement in the health and general condition of most of the patients after a few weeks' residence in the hospital was very marked. A small charge per week has been made, which does not, of course, nearly cover the cost of maintenance, nursing and medical attendance.

SANITARY WORK DONE DURING THE YEAR.

Scavenging, Flushing, &c.—The scavenging and flushing of the streets and sewers has been regularly and satisfactorily carried out. The removal of night soil has been stopped, and the cesspools filled up, 1061 new house drains have been provided during the year.

Water Supply.—The Poole Water Works Company's supply has been constant. No complaints have been received of the Poole supply, but owing to complaints from residents in Parkstone your Council ordered samples to be obtained for independent analysis. The analyst's report has not yet been received.

Slaughter Houses.—These were inspected half-yearly by the Sanitary Inspector and myself, and were classified as follows: April, good, five; fair, one. In October, good, four; fair, three

Bakehouses.—These were inspected half-yearly by the Sanitary Inspector and myself. Thirty-five were inspected in April and were classified as follows:—Very good 5; good 14; fair 13; dirty 3. In October very good 5; good 16; fair 10; dirty 4. The ones marked dirty were ordered to be put into Sanitary condition, whitewashed and cleansed.

Daries and Cowsheds.—These were inspected half-yearly by the Sanitary Inspector and myself. At the April Inspection 21 were visited and classified as follows:—Good 10; fair 9; dirty 2. At the October inspection good 12; fair 7; dirty 2. The dirty ones were afterwards cleansed and whitewashed.

Food Supply.—Fifty-seven articles of food have been forwarded to the public Analyst during the year. All have been pronounced genuine.

Premises in an Unsanitary Condition.—The Sanitary Inspector has visited several places in an unsanitary condition, besides all houses in which infectious diseases were certified as occurring and has given the necessary instructions for cleansing, &c.

Disinfection.—All premises where infectious diseases were notified as having occurred were disinfected by formalin vapour by the Sanitary Inspector and his assistant. During the summer the Courts and Alleys of the town were cleansed and whitewashed. I should like it to be made public that your Council will now undertake the disinfection of rooms that have been occupied by consumptive persons, without any expense to the occupier. It has been proved that this is one way in which the number of deaths from consumption may be lessened, as the tubercle bacillus is destroyed by powerful disinfectants. Might I ask the co-operation of the medical attendants and the relatives in giving me notice of any fatal case, or the removal of a consumptive patient.

Twenty-nine deaths were registered from phthisis in the district, 11 in Poole, 10 in Parkstone, 4 in Longfleet and 4 in Public Institutions. The number of deaths from phthisis has been exactly the same during the past year as the number of deaths from all zymotic diseases. Any measure which tends to stop the ravages of this far-reaching disease ought to be welcomed and supported by the public.

Nuisances.—Owing to complaints being received the Sanitary Inspector and myself visited the three fried fish shops. Two were found to have the latest pattern of stoves, one was found dirty, and notice was served to carry out the alterations found necessary.

I am indebted to Mr. J. Elford, Borough Surveyor, for the following account of plans of buildings passed during the year, and also of the present state of the sewerage and salt water pumping system.

Building Developments at Poole.—Perhaps nothing has been more marked in the Borough of Poole during the past year (and more particularly the earlier months) than the building developments. The growth of Heckford Park has considerably added to the rateable value of Longfleet, and at Parkstone the builders have proceeded apace.

The Borough Surveyor (Mr. J. Elford) has reported to the Town Council as follows:—During the year 1904, 241 sets of plans were considered by you. Plans for 209 dwelling-houses and 85 buildings other than dwelling-houses were approved, and 57 dwelling-houses disapproved. 113 new dwelling-houses have been erected (plans of which were approved prior to 1904) and 95 houses (plans of which have been approved during 1904), making a total of 208 new dwelling-houses erected and completed during the year, nearly all of which are occupied. At the end of the year there were 52 dwelling-houses in course of erection. Plans of four new roads, with a total length of 1,217 yards, have been approved during the year.

Salt Water Pumping at Poole.—At Poole there has been work in operation for about a twelvemonth, with sewage and salt water pumping machinery. It will be recollected that there was a good deal of debate as to converting the erection at Constitution Hill into a lofty tower, partly for spectacular purposes, the view obtainable being such a magnificent one, but this was abandoned, and it is a reservoir tank only.

The Borough Surveyor has furnished the Town Council with the following information for the eleven months ended December 31st last:—

The total working expenses in connection with both sets of machinery were £795, which includes the working of the hydro-pneumatic ejectors, near the Hamworthy Bridge, and Adams' sewage lift at Bird's Hill.

The total volume of sewage of the whole of St. James and the lower portion of Longfleet which gravitates to the pumping station and is there lifted to the high level sewer at Seldown, for the period named, was 7,582,760 gallons, at a cost of £693 18s., or at the rate of 3½d. per thousand gallons: some portion of this has to be first lifted by the ejectors by air compressed at the pumping station.

The sewage lift situate at Bird's Hill raises the sewage to a higher level by means of salt water, it being computed that an equal volume of water being required as sewage to be lifted. The water, after being used for the lifting process, is utilized for the flushing of the gravitating main of that neighbourhood. The total volume of salt water used for the eleven months was 13,892,520 gallons, the working cost of same being £101 5s. 11d., or 1¾d. per thousand gallons. About one-tenth of the volume named was used for road watering.

The largest consumption of salt water was during the month of June, when the average was 52,000 gallons per day. The largest quantity of sewage dealt with was in December, when the daily average was 192,877 gallons, equal to about 20 gallons per day per head of population in the pumping area.

At the end of the year there were 80 inhabited houses not connected to the sewers in addition to the houses which it is proposed to remove under the artizans' dwellings scheme. When these are connected there will be an addition of about 5 per cent. more sewage to be lifted.

I am pleased to record that both the sewage and salt water system are working well and giving every satisfaction.

Housing of the Working Classes Act.—A plan approved by your Council is now awaiting the sanction of the Local Government Board for the demolition of some of the slum property at the lower part of the town and the building of new cottages for the working classes.

Factory and Workshops Act.—Systematic inspections were made by the Sanitary Inspector and myself of the workshops; 70 inspections were made and in 5 cases the sanitary accommodations were found to be unsuitable or defective. These were remedied.

Common Lodging Houses.—These, two in number, but belonging to the same tenant, were visited and found to be kept clean, and in much better order than last year. Both have been drained into the public sewer, and water closets provided in place of the old vaults.

Disinfection.—I desire again to bring before your Council the necessity of having a disinfecting station, where large articles, such as bedding, &c., may be effectually disinfected after infectious cases.

Ambulance.—A new brougham ambulance fitted with india-rubber tyres has been purchased by your Council at a cost of £90. The doors open at the back, and the bed, which is provided with a spring mattress, can be lifted in and out. This is a great improvement over the old ambulance, as severe cases can now be taken anywhere in a lying position. Your Council has sanctioned that the ambulance may be used (for the conveyance of infectious diseases only) within the district.

In conformity with the regulations of the Local Government Board, I have made frequent inspections of the various parts of the district.

I have to acknowledge with many thanks the very valuable assistance rendered me by the Sanitary Inspector Mr. Richard Smith, junior, A.S.I., who always performs his duties with great tact, thoroughness and courtesy.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

GEO. H. CARRINGTON,

M.R.C.S., Eng., L.S.A., Lond., D.P.H., R.C.P.S.I.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Poole, Feb. 16th, 1905.

Table I.
VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1904 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in District				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.
		No.	Rate*	Under 1 year.		At all Ages.		
				No.	Rate*	No.	Rate*	
1894	16662	538	32.25	41	91	229	13.74	30
1895	17053	497	29.56	63	126	258	15.13	26
1896	17438	550	31.54	64	116	260	14.90	30
1897	17826	511	28.66	63	123	277	15.53	25
1898	18214	526	28.76	76	145	278	15.31	32
1899	18602	509	27.36	90	173	325	17.47	43
1900	18990	526	27.69	69	131	292	15.37	32
1901	19588	538	27.46	50	92	273	13.93	38
1902	20095	537	26.72	59	109.8	331	16.41	32
1903	20500	555	27.07	75	135.3	330	16.09	36
Averages for years 1894—1903	18496	528	28.71	64.9	124.1	285	15.38	32
1904	21000	569	27.09	62	109	364	17.03	52

* Rates calculated at per 1000 of estimated population.

Table III.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1904.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in the whole District.						Total Cases notified in each Locality.				No. of Cases removed to Hospital from each Locality.			
	At Ages—Years						Poole	Parkstone	Longfleet	Hamworthy	Poole	Parkstone	Longfleet	Hamworthy
	At all Ages.	under 1	1—5	5—15	15—25	25—65								
Diphtheria ..	32	..	11	17	4	..	11	20	1	..	1	7	..	..
Membranous Croup ..	2	..	2	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas ..	27	3	..	1	2	1	18	2	4	3	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever ..	224	1	68	130	15	10	202	10	4	8	50	3	3	1
Enteric Fever ..	21	..	2	3	4	10	15	5	..	1	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	307	4	83	151	25	41	247	38	9	13	51	10	3	1

Isolation Hospital—Poole Borough Fever Hospital.

Table IV. CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1904.

Cause of Death.	Deaths in whole District at subjoined ages.							Deaths in Localities at all ages.							Deaths in Public Institutions.
	All ages	under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	Poole	Parkstone	Longfleet	Hammworthy	Poole Harbour	Poole Town and Corporation	Fever Hospital	
Scarlet Fever ...	5	...	3	1	...	1	...	3	...	1	...	...	...	1	1
Whooping Cough ...	3	1	2	...	...	1	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup ...	7	...	3	3	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Enteric Fever...	4	...	...	...	1	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
Epidemic Influenza ...	5	1	...	...	1	2	...	4	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoea ...	10	10	...	...	...	...	...	4	5	...	...	...	1	...	1
Enteritis ...	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	3	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Other septic diseases ...	6	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Phthisis ...	29	...	1	1	5	20	2	11	10	4	...	...	4	...	4
Other tubercular diseases ...	2	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease ...	28	...	...	...	...	17	11	9	9	6	1	...	3	...	3
Bronchitis ...	25	4	4	...	...	6	11	12	9	1	...	...	3	...	3
Pneumonia ...	20	2	9	...	...	6	3	8	8	4	...	...	...	...	...
Pleurisy ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other diseases of Respiratory organs ...	4	...	...	...	...	2	2	1	2	...	1	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of Liver ...	5	...	...	...	...	5	...	3	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Birth ...	16	16	...	...	...	...	...	10	5	1	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases and Accidents of parturition ...	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Heart Diseases ...	37	1	2	...	...	12	22	13	11	6	5	...	2	...	2
Accidents ...	17	1	3	...	...	8	5	4	4	2	...	2	5	...	5
Suicides ...	4	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	1	2	...	...	1	...	1
All other causes ...	126	20	9	2	4	26	65	48	36	16	2	...	24	...	21
All causes ...	364	62	36	7	16	117	126	145	107	48	10	2	50	2	52

COUNTY OF DORSET.

—:—

THE URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF POOLE.

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*Return relating to Sanitary Work within the above District during
the year ended 31st December, 1904.*

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No. of Complaints received during the year	14
No. of Inspections of Houses, Premises, &c.	1087
Results of Inspections—			
Orders issued for Sanitary Amendment of Houses and Premises	...	...	90
Houses Disinfected after infectious illness	...	...	119
House Drains—			
New provided	...	...	1061
Privies and W.C's.—			
New provided	...	...	26
Supplied with water...	...	...	4
Sewers, New provided	...	...	12
Miscellaneous—			
Removal of Accumulations of Manure, Animal, and other Refuse	...	...	6
No. of Lodging-houses Registered	...	...	3
Legal Proceeding (Summons)	...	...	1
Samples of Food taken for Analysis	...	...	57

RICHARD SMITH,
Sanitary Inspector.

20th January, 1905.

To the Poole Port Sanitary Authority.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Report as Port Medical Officer of Health for the year ending December 31st, 1904.

I have much pleasure in recording the fact that no case of Infectious Disease was notified amongst the seamen. The seamen, both English and Foreign, have been in a healthy condition, and the ships have generally been in a clean state, with better sanitary arrangements.

Two deaths were registered as having occurred:—Male, 46 years, found drowned (Inquest); Male, 58 years, unknown, found drowned.

The same inspections of vessels by the Harbour Authorities, Board of Trade and Customs Officials, have been made as in previous years.

The number of vessels inspected by the Sanitary Officials was 41, and were thus classed—

		<i>English.</i>	<i>Foreign.</i>
Clean	...	23	8
Fair	...	9	1

The completion of the Quay Wall during the year is a great improvement from a health point of view, as hundreds of tons of sludge under the old staging have been dredged up, and carried out to sea.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

GEO. H. CARRINGTON, D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

